Case 2984

Monograptus riccartonensis Lapworth, 1876 (Graptolithina): proposed designation of a neotype

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to propose a neotype for *Monograptus riccartonensis* Lapworth, 1876, a graptolite upon which Tullberg (1882) based the *M. riccartonensis* Zone of Wenlock (Silurian) age. Přibyl (1948) designated as lectotype one of Lapworth's type specimens which belongs to another species and is from strata significantly older than the *M. riccartonensis* Zone.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; graptolites; Silurian; *Monograptus riccartonensis.*

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1. Lapworth (1876, pp. 355–356, pl. 13, figs. 2a-e) described a new species of monograptid, *Monograptus riccartonensis*, from the Silurian of the British Isles.

2. Tullberg (1882, p. 15) established the *Monograptus riccartonensis* Zone in Sweden. This zone was subsequently recognized by Elles (1900, pp. 375–376) in her classic paper 'The zonal classification of the Wenlock Shales', and incorporated by Elles & Wood (1914, p. 526) in their table 'Vertical ranges of the zones of British Graptolitoidea'. More recently it has been included in Rickard's (1989) table of zones 'most widely in use in international correlation', and in Koren et al.'s 'generalized graptolite zonal sequence defining Silurian time intervals for global palaeogeographical studies' (in press).

3. Přibyl (1948, p. 33) designated as lectotype of *Monograptus riccartonensis* the specimen illustrated by Lapworth (1876) in pl. 13, fig. 2a. However, Strachan (1971, p. 60) has noted that 'this specimen from the Swanston collection is probably not recognizable as a figured specimen'.

4. Two of Lapworth's figured specimens (1876, pl. 13, figs. 2a-b), including the lectotype, are from Tieveshilly, County Down, Northern Ireland. Graptolitic strata of Wenlock age are not known from this locality (T.B. Anderson, pers. comm.). It is probable that Lapworth's figures were oblique views of *Monograptus priodon* (Bronn, 1835) or a related species of Telychian (Upper Llandovery) age.

5. Lapworth's other illustrated specimens (Lapworth, 1876, pl. 13, figs. 2c-e) were collected from the Riccarton Beds (of Wenlock age) from Elliotsfield, Roxburghshire, Scotland; these specimens have not been located. However, another specimen from this locality was figured as *Monograptus riccartonensis* by Lapworth (1880, pl. 4, fig. 8c) and was refigured by Elles & Wood (1913, pl. 42, fig. 8b). This specimen is housed in the Lapworth Museum, Birmingham University and is numbered BU 1585 (Strachan, 1971, p. 91). Two other specimens on the same slab were figured by Elles & Wood (1913, text-figs. 286a-b). It is this species, and not *Monograptus priodon* or

some other, which was illustrated by Tullberg (1883, pl. 2, figs. 26–27) and upon which the *M. riccartonensis* Zone is founded.

6. It is desirable that Lapworth's specific name *riccartonensis* be retained for his specimens from Elliotsfield as it is upon these that the internationally recognized *M. riccartonensis* Zone is based. I therefore propose that specimen BU 1585, figured by Lapworth (1880, pl. 4, fig. 8c), be designated as neotype of *M. riccartonensis* Lapworth, 1876.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all previous fixations of type specimens for the nominal species *Monograptus riccartonensis* Lapworth, 1876 and to designate as the neotype the specimen BU 1585 in the Lapworth Museum, Birmingham University;

(2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *riccartonensis* Lapworth, 1876, as published in the binomen *Monograptus riccartonensis* and as defined by the neotype designated in (1) above.

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